

REMARKS:

Claims 9 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22 are pending in the application.

The Office rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hawthorn US 2,151, 206.

The Office objected to claims 8, 9, 17, and 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if re-written in independent form to including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been re-written now to include the limitations of original dependent claim 9 and claim 10 has been re-written now to include limitations of original dependent claim 18. An amendment was also made in line 5 of claim 10 to correct a minor informality. Accordingly Applicants now believe independent claims 1 and 18 to be allowable and respectfully request allowance of these claims.

The Office objected to claim 19 for being indefinite for containing language not being in the form of a method step.

Claim 19 has been amended now to make it read as a proper method claim. Applicants, therefore also respectfully request allowance of this claim.

Applicants believe pending dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21 and 22, being dependent upon one of allowable base claims 1, 10 and 19, are also allowable and respectfully request allowance of these claims.

In view of the arguments and amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffery E. Daly/

Electronically signed by Jeffery E. Daly on Sept. 6, 2006.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 or by facsimile or electronic transmission to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

9/6/06
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